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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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ICA-20 IO-15 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0268

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3022

E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS AHUM, AR
SUBJECT JACOBO TIMERMAN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

1. TODAY'S PRENSA (4/17) RAN PROMINENTLY INSIDE A STORY BY MANFRED SCHOENFELD TITLED "JACOBO TIMERMAN'S SITUATION MUST BE NORMALIZED, BUT NOT BECAUSE OF FOREIGN PRESSURE." IN THE LENGTHIEST AND MOST IMPORTANT PIECE ON THE TIMERMAN CASE SO FAR PUBLISHED BY A SPANISH-LANGUAGE PAPER IN BUENOS AIRES, SCHOENFELD STATED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE CASE WERE "BORDERING ON THE GROTESQUE" SINCE TIMERMAN HAD BEEN CLEARED OF CHARGES, THE SUPREME COURT HAD RULED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO HOLD HIM, AND HE STILL CONTINUED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. SCHOENFELD DISCUSSED THE NOTION THAT "THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING CRUELLY WITH TIMERMAN BECAUSE HE WAS A JEW" AND CONCLUDED THAT THE "SUSPICION OF RACISM," WHILE "NOT ENTIRELY GRATUITOUS, WAS ALSO DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE MATTER WAS AND IS BEING VERY BADLY HANDLED BY THE AUTHORITIES."

2. THE SCHOENFELD PIECE CONTINUED: " 'BADLY HANDLED' APPLIES TO A PROCESS WHICH ENDS BY ATTRIBUTING MORE IMPORTANCE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURES THAN TO THE JUSTIFIED DEMANDS OF ARGENTINE CITIZENS THAT THE GOVERNMENT INFORM ON WHAT IT DOES AND RESPECT THE DIVISION OF

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POWERS AND THE RULE OF LAW. THE CASE OF JACOBO TIMERMAN BELONGS IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARGENTINE

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JUDICIARY. IT DOES NOT CONCERN OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY, OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE US, AND MUCH LESS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON, THE OAS OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY. WE DO NOT NEED ANYONE TO COME OVER AND TEACH US HOW TO ADMINISTER JUSTICE IN OUR COUNTRY... WE HAVE NO NEED OF VISITING 'INSPECTIONS,' OR, RATHER, WE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE ANY. IF, IN THE TIMERMAN CASE AS IN MANY OTHERS, JUSTICE HAD BEEN ADMINISTERED AS IT SHOULD, WE WOULDN'T NOW FIND OURSELVES IN THE LUDICROUS SITUATION OF HAVING TO 'TIDY UP' TO 'LOOK GOOD' SHORTLY BEFORE THE OAS MISSION ARRIVES."

3. LA PRENSA OF THE PREVIOUS DAY HAD GIVEN A RESUME OF TIMERMAN'S TWO YEAR IMPRISONMENT AND HEADLINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT TIMERMAN MIGHT INITIATE A HUNGER STRIKE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD ALSO (4/16) RAN AN ANNIVERSARY PIECE ON TIMERMAN'S TWO YEAR CONFINEMENT. THE "LA PRENSA ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT "MILITARY SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT THE MILITARY JUNTA MIGHT INTEND TO REVIEW THE TIMERMAN CASE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE (IACHR) COMMISSION, IN ORDER TO AVOID GREATER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AGAINST HIS IMPRISONMENT." "CONVICCION" ALSO PICKED UP NEWS OF THE HUNGER STRIKE FROM THE FOREIGN WIRE SERVICES.
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